

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 041943

P R 011815Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1692

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, NA

SUBJECT: ST. MAARTEN LABOR PROBLEMS CONTINUE WITH SOME  
VIOLENCE

REF: CURACAO 0061

1. LABOR UNREST ON ST. MAARTEN INSTIGATED BY WILLY  
HAIZE'S UNITED FEDERATION OF THE ANTILLES (UNIFA)  
CONTINUES. ON NIGHT OF JANUARY 30, POWER SUPPLY WAS  
INTERRUPTED FOR TWO HOURS BY UNIFA SABOTAGE. ON SAME  
NIGHT ATTEMPT MADE TO BURN SUPERMARKET PRINCIPALLY OWNED  
BY CHESTER WATHEY, BROTHER OF QTE SENATOR UNQTE CLAUDE WATHEY,  
WITH SOME DAMAGE TO BUILDING. POLICE HAVE ARRESTED 3  
PERSONS WITH ONE OF THEM ADMITTING ACT.

2. GNA SENT ADDITIONAL 30 POLICEMEN ON JAN. 31 TO BOLSTER  
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ISLAND'S SMALL FORCE.

3. HAIZE CALLED MEETING OF UNIFA FOR EVENING JAN. 31.  
RESULTS OF THIS NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT UNLIKELY HAIZE WILL  
MODERATE HIS DEMANDS FOR UNIFA RECOGNITION AND 30 PERCENT  
WAGE RAISE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW ST. MAARTEN'S ENTREPRENEURS  
CAN ABSORB A 30 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE. ACCESSION TO THIS  
DEMAND WOULD MEAN SUBSTANTIAL PRICE RISES IN THE ALREADY HIGH  
COST OF LIVING ON AN ISLAND WHERE INFLATION, DUE TO ALMOST  
TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED GOODS, HAS LONG BEEN RAMPANT.  
NEITHER DO THE EMPLOYERS WISH TO CHANGE THEIR PRESENT  
COMFORTABLE  
POSITION WITH COMPLIANT LABOR LEADERS, WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN  
ABLE TO CONTROL COMPLETELY, FOR RELATIONS WITH A DEMAGOGUE  
OF HAIZE'S STRIKE. ANY SEVERE VIOLENCE, OF COURSE, WILL  
HURT THE ISLAND'S TOURISM ON WHICH ITS PROSPERITY IS BASED.  
WHATEVER HAPPENS, ST. MAARTEN WILL EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY IN  
ADJUSTING.  
LOFTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SABOTAGE, LABOR DISPUTES, ARRESTS, BUILDING DAMAGE, POLICE FORCES, MEETINGS, WAGE RATES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**From:** CURACAO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ST. MAARTEN LABOR PROBLEMS CONTINUE WITH SOME VIOLENCE  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINS, NA, UNIFA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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